

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A needle protector for use with a needle assembly that includes a piercing end, a hub and a plastic tube attached to the hub, said protector comprising:

a body including ~~first~~ proximal and ~~second~~ distal open ends;

a plurality of side walls extending between the said ~~first~~ proximal and ~~second~~ distal open ends, said side walls defining an interior chamber, wherein said ~~first~~ distal open end is adapted to receive the hub of a needle assembly;

wherein said ~~second~~ proximal open end is sized so that said hub cannot pass through said proximal open end, said proximal open end further comprising ~~comprises~~ a multiple profile window adapted including a portion sized and shaped to slidably receive said tubing and a portion sized and shaped to retain said tubing; and

wherein at least one of said side walls includes a retaining member adapted for contacting said hub of said needle assembly.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Original) The needle protector of Claim 1 wherein one of said side walls further comprises first and second guiding ledges extending inwardly therefrom.

5. (Original) The needle protector of Claim 4 wherein the first and second guiding ledges inwardly extend from said side wall including said retaining member.

6. (Original) The needle protector of Claim 1 wherein one of said side walls further

includes and defines an axial groove.

7. (Previously Presented) The needle protector of Claim 6 wherein said side wall opposite said side wall including said retaining member, defines said groove.

8. (Original) The needle protector of Claim 1 wherein said retaining member comprises a detent depending from one of said side walls.

9. (Original) The needle protector of Claim 1 wherein said body further comprises an outwardly extending radial flange at said open distal end.

10. (Original) The needle protector of Claim 1 further comprising a cap associated with said open distal end.

11. (Currently Amended) A needle protector assembly comprising a needle assembly, including a piercing end attached to one end of a hub and a length of tubing attached to the opposite end of said hub, said hub further comprising a rib extending outwardly therefrom;

a body including first proximal and ~~second~~ distal open ends; and

a plurality of side walls extending between said first proximal and ~~second~~ distal open ends, wherein said ~~first~~ distal end is adapted to receive the hub of said needle assembly, wherein one of said side walls further includes a retaining member adapted for contacting said hub of said needle assembly and another of said side walls further includes and defines a groove extending axially from said first open distal end to said open proximal end]; and

wherein said proximal open end is sized so that said hub cannot pass through said proximal open end, said proximal open end further comprising a multiple profile

window including a portion sized and shaped to slidably receive said tubing and a portion sized and shaped to retain said tubing.

12. (Previously Presented) The needle protector of Claim 1 wherein one of said side walls defines a slot for viewing said interior chamber.

13. (Currently Amended) The needle protector of Claim 1 ~~wherein said~~ comprising a unitary single piece body ~~is comprised~~ of a substantially transparent plastic material.

14. (Currently Amended) The needle protector of Claim 1 wherein said multiple profile window includes a dual profile window consisting of a smaller cross section profile and a larger cross section profile.

15. (Currently Amended) The needle protector of Claim 14 wherein the relatively smaller cross section profile is sized to substantially retain said tubing.

16. (Currently Amended) The needle protector of Claim 14 wherein the relatively larger cross section profile is sized to allow for free movement of said tubing therethrough.

17. (Currently Amended) The needle protector of Claim 11 wherein said ~~second~~ proximal open end comprises a multiple profile window adapted to selectively slidably receive and retain said tubing.

18. (Currently Amended) The needle protector of Claim 17 wherein said multiple profile window includes a dual profile window consisting of a smaller cross section profile and a larger cross section profile.

19. (Currently Amended) The needle protector of Claim 18 wherein the relatively smaller cross section profile is sized to substantially retain said tubing.

20. (Currently Amended) The needle protector of Claim 18 wherein the relatively larger cross section profile is sized to allow for free movement of said tubing therethrough.

21. (Previously Presented) The needle protector of Claim 11 wherein one of said side walls defines a slot for viewing said interior chamber.
22. (Previously Presented) The needle protector of Claim 11 wherein one of said side walls further comprises first and second guiding ledges extending inwardly therefrom.
23. (Previously Presented) The needle protector of Claim 22 wherein the first and second guiding ledges inwardly extend from said side wall including said retaining member.
24. (Previously Presented) The needle protector of Claim 11 wherein said side wall opposite said side wall including said retaining member, defines said groove.
25. (Previously Presented) The needle protector of Claim 11 wherein said retaining member comprises a detent depending from one of said side walls.
26. (Previously Presented) The needle protector of Claim 11 wherein said body further comprises an outwardly extending radial flange at said open distal end.
27. (Previously Presented) The needle protector of Claim 11 further comprising a cap associated with said open distal end.
28. (Currently Amended) The needle protector of Claim 11 ~~wherein said~~ comprising a unitary body ~~is comprised~~ of a substantially transparent plastic material.
29. (Canceled)